



**SB 69  
Courts - Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure**

**FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Association for Justice, Inc. (MAJ) represents over 1,200 trial attorneys throughout the state of Maryland. MAJ advocates for the preservation of the civil justice system, the protection of the rights of consumers and the education and professional development of its members.

SB 69 would require the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Maryland Court of Appeals to maintain equal and balanced representation of members from various practice areas and constituents of the Maryland Judiciary, while also clarifying methods of removing members of the Standing Committee, and methods of disclosing personal or professional interests that may interfere with the work of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

1. The Rules Committee is an important committee which establishes the rules of court proceedings in Maryland.
2. The members must be diverse, and without bias, to properly establish fair rules.
3. This bill eliminates economic bias which promotes public trust in the judicial process.
4. Diversity of opinions, geography, and practice area is paramount to fair rules of court.
5. This bill requires, rather than promotes, true diversity on the rules committee.
6. A diverse committee will better serve the legal community and the public.

**The Maryland Association for Justice urges a Favorable Report**